

May 2018, Coconut Telegraph

Important Information in this issue you won't want to miss!

****Hurricane Season Quickly Approaching**

****Boating with Paddleboarders and Kayakers in the Bay**

****LGPOA Annual Meeting - held April 14th, 2018**

****2018 Membership Drive**

****Channel Marker Update**

****LGIFR update - burn ban**

Next LGPOA Meeting

Tuesday May 15th at 5pm the board will meet at Terrie's house, (9782, LGI). Members are encouraged and welcome to attend. If you have anything you would like to discuss please contact/email your district representative one week prior (by May 8th) and we will make sure you are on the agenda.

Mary Lou Davidson, Director, representing District 1 (8000 – 8288), maryloudavidson@yahoo.com

Rhonda Freeman, Director, representing District 2 (8292 – 8538 including: 8542, 8550, 8556, 8560, 8564, 8568, 8570, 8576, 8578, 8586), rfreeman123@yahoo.com

Rhonda Olson, Vice President, representing District 3 (8594 – 8888 including: 8546, 8554, 8558, 8562, 8566, 8574, 8582, 8590 excluding: 8802-8818 (even #'s)), twrhonda@gmail.com

Richard Leydon Jr., President, representing District 4 (8890 – 9134 including: 8802-8818 (even #'s)), richardleydonjr@gmail.com

Barbara Orcutt, Director, representing District 5 (9140 – 9394),
vitaeditor@aol.com

Marietta Abele, Director, representing District 6 (Hideaway Bay), mkabele@juno.com

Paul Holmes, Treasurer, representing District 7 (9420 – 9646 excluding: 9494, 9498, 9502), pbholmes0@gmail.com

Terrie Weibley, Secretary, representing District 8 (9660 – 9908 including: 9494, 9498, 9502), tweibley1@gmail.com

****Hurricane Season Quickly Approaching**

From Hurricane Chair, Leigh Olson:

Hurricane season starts June 1st and lasts until November 30th. You can visit LGPOA/hurricanes for more information. Unfortunately, due to maintenance and high cost, the weather stations on the Boca Grande bridge and the two on our island, owned by private homeowners, are down and won't be fixed.

Visit the links below for more information on Hurricane Preparedness Week, which is May 6-12th this year.

<https://www.weather.gov/wrn/hurricane-preparedness>

<https://www.ready.gov/hurricanes>

****Boating with Paddleboarders and Kayakers in the Bay**

Boaters should use good seamanship in regards to kayakers and paddleboarders when in or out of the channel. It's nice to slow down when your wake can affect them. Imagine yourself in the kayak or on the paddleboard and act accordingly.

Paddle Boarding Safety

Did you know the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) has determined that a paddleboard is a vessel in most situations and is required to have the same safety equipment as other small human-powered vessels (canoes/kayaks)? Here is what this means if you are using a paddleboard:

1. Unless the paddleboard is being used within a “swimming, surfing or bathing area,” the paddleboard must have a USCG-approved life jacket for each person and a sound-producing device on board while on the water.
2. Although persons on the paddleboard are not required to wear the life jacket while on Florida waters (unless they are less than 6 years of age), it is advisable to find a comfortable life jacket that you can wear or easily carry while on the water.
3. A "sound-producing device" is a small whistle or horn that can be heard for a least one-half nautical mile. "Referee-type" whistles or other similar devices that can be attached to your life jacket work well.
4. If you are operating in limited visibility or at night, you will also need a flashlight or lantern that produces a white light. It should be displayed to approaching vessels in enough time to prevent a collision. The light should not be continually displayed.

This information on required equipment for paddleboards is general information and is not intended to address every situation on the water. For more information on required safety equipment for boats, please visit [MyFWC.com/Boating](https://www.myfwc.com/Boating).

Kayak Safety - same as paddleboards except:

Registration is a requirement for all kayaks using a gas or electric motor. It isn't required if the kayak will be paddled.

****Channel Marker Update**

Navigation Chair, Richard Leydon, Jr.

The county was notified February 7th, 2018 of the missing south channel marker #1. When I followed up, I was notified there is a new person handling pilings starting 6/1/18. Again, I encouraged a timely response for safety reasons.

****Annual Meeting 2017-2018**

It was so great to see so many show up for the Spring 2018 Annual LGPOA Membership Meeting and picnic held Saturday, April 14th at 10 am at the Placida Beach Condos. We enjoyed hamburgers, hotdogs and delicious salads and deserts brought by islanders.

LGPOA President Richard Leydon Jr. led the meeting and covered the boards accomplishments in 2017 and early 2018. The new fire chief, Bill Underhill, updated LGPOA members on the LGIFR year. And there were two reps from FPL in attendance for our questions. Minutes with details can be found at LGPOA.org.

The LGPOA affirmed the continued service of District 2,4,6 and 8 Directors for the two-year term beginning with the April 14th Board Meeting. They are;

2 – Rhonda Freeman

4 – Richard Leydon, Jr.

6 – Marietta Abele

8 – Terrie Weibley

A vacancy occurred in District 1. The Board is pleased to announce that Mary Lou Davidson was appointed the Director of District 1 at the same meeting.

Your representative wants to know your concerns. If you are unsure about your District or how to contact your Director, please see above under “Next LGPOA Meeting” or refer to the “About” page on the LGPOA.org website. There you can always locate your district by house number, find your Director and his/her contact information.

****2018 Membership Drive**

From Membership Chair, Mary Lou Davidson:

As of 4/25/18 our 2018-19 Membership Campaign has drawn 206 members. The Coconut Telegraph is just one of the many benefits of Membership. Help us get the word out to friends and neighbors about the benefits of joining. We welcome your on-line renewal at www.lgpoa.org/membership or, your paper submission via US mail.

For more information please e-mail Membership Chair, Mary Lou Davidson @ maryloudavidson@yahoo.com.

****Little Gasparilla Island Fire and Rescue (LGIFR)** (The LGPOA is not affiliated with the LGIFR, we just want to keep you up to date on all island activities.)

From LGIFR Fire Chief, Bill Underhill

Burn Ban

The current burn ban is still in effect. LGIFR is in contact with Charlotte County on daily basis and will let everyone know as soon as it is lifted. If you have any questions please call LGIFR at 941-270-7607.

Golf Cart Safety

LGIFR would like to remind everyone about golf cart safety.

1. The minimum age to drive a golf cart is 14 in Charlotte County. LGI Cart's rules are 16, if with an adult or 18 by themselves.
2. Make sure everyone is seated.
3. Maintain a safe speed, especially around curves and where brush obstructs your view of pedestrians and other carts.
4. Do not drag your feet from the cart. Doing so puts you at risk of injury from roots, wires, glass or construction debris buried in the sand.
5. Inspect the cart to be sure the brakes and lights work and the seats are secure.
6. Prop open the seat when charging your cart to allow heat and gasses to vent to reduce the risk of fire.
7. When parking near a beach access leave room for our vehicles to get by in case there is a medical or fire emergency on the beach.
8. No golf carts are allowed on the beach at any time.

New EMS and Fire Vehicle

LGIFR'S new EMS vehicle and fire vehicle are now in service. Anyone who wishes to learn the operation of the equipment is encouraged to call and make arrangements.

Preventative Measures

LGIFR promotes preventative fire and medical protocols. Members are urged to call 941-270-7607 with any questions, concerns or ideas regarding preventative measures.

LGIFR T-Shirts

The new shipment of T-shirts has arrived. T-shirts will be sold at the July 4th activities. They can also be obtained by calling Debbie Coolidge at 941-697-1314.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the LGIFR Board will be June 9, 2018 at 3:30 at the firehouse. All LGI property owners are members of LGIFR and are encouraged to attend.



Little Gasparilla Property Owners Association Board and Committee names and emails can be found on the LGPOA website at www.lgpoa.org.



Please feel free to email me at twrhonda@gmail.com with any information you'd like circulated in the next month's Coconut Telegraph by the 25th of the month. Content is reviewed by board members for approval.

Rhonda Olson